

**In the claims**

Claims 1-27 (canceled)

Claims 28-57 (new)

28. (New): A filter device having filter elements made of ceramic material which are combined into at least one filter group, wherein said filter elements lie side by side next to one another and can be flowed through in parallel, wherein some of said filter elements of said filter element group have electric terminals for connection with an electrical energy source, and at least one of said filter elements is made of electrically conductive ceramic material, wherein said filter elements comprise first filter elements having electrical terminals, and second filter elements not having electrical terminals, said first filter elements being arranged at the center of said filter group.

29. (New): A filter device having filter elements made of ceramic material which are combined into at least one filter group, wherein said filter elements lie side by side next to one another and can be flowed through in parallel, wherein some of said filter elements of said filter element group have electric terminals for connection with an electrical energy source, and at least one of said filter elements is made of electrically conductive ceramic material,

wherein said filter elements comprise at least one first filter element having electrical terminals, and at least one second filter element not having electrical terminals,

wherein said first filter element is surrounded by said second filter elements.

30. (New): A filter device having filter elements made of ceramic material which are combined into at least one filter group, wherein said filter elements lie side by side next to one another and can be flowed through in parallel, wherein some of said filter elements of said filter element group have electric terminals for connection with an electrical energy source, and at least one of said filter elements is made of electrically conductive ceramic material, wherein said filter elements comprise first filter elements having electrical terminals, and second filter elements not having electrical terminals, wherein said second filter elements are comprised of non-conductive material.

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31. (New): A filter device having filter elements made of ceramic material, the filter elements being combined into at least one filter element group, said filter elements in said filter element group being positioned adjacent to one another, so that said filter elements are exposed to parallel flow, the filter element group comprising at least one first filter element, and at least one second filter element,

said first filter element being comprised of electrically conductive ceramic material, and having electrical terminals for connection to an electrical energy source,

said second filter element comprised of ceramic material which is not electrically conductive or has a lower electrical conductivity than the ceramic material of said first filter element.

32. (New): The filter device of claim 31, wherein said second filter element is side by side with said first filter element,
- said second filter elements has an electrically conductive contact with at least one said first filter element.

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33. (New): The filter device of claim 31, wherein said first filter element is arranged in a center area of said filter element group.

34. (New): The filter device of claim 31, wherein at least two of said first filter elements are separated by at least one of said second filter elements in said filter element group.

35. (New): The filter device of claim 31, wherein said first filter element is surrounded by at least one of said second filter elements.

36. (New): The filter device of claim 31, wherein the thermal conductivity of said second element is greater than or less than the thermal conductivity of said first filter element.

37. (New): The filter device of claim 31, wherein each of said filter elements comprise inflow conduits and outflow conduits,  
each inflow conduit is next to, and alternates with an outflow conduit,  
said inflow and said outflow conduits are separated by porous walls,  
each inflow conduit has an opening on an inflow side and is closed on an outflow side,  
each outflow conduit is closed on an inflow side and has an opening on an outflow side.

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38. (New): The filter device of claim 31, wherein said filter elements have outer gas tight walls.

39. (New): The filtration device of claim 31, wherein said outer walls have a configuration selected from a group comprising: rectangular, square, oval, round and shell-shaped.

40. (New): The filtration device of claim 31, wherein each filter element group is surrounded by a housing,  
said housing having a gas inlet and a gas outlet.

41. (New): The filtration device of claim 31, wherein contact layers are disposed between adjacent filter elements, said contact layers having an expansion coefficient over an operating temperature range that is substantially the same as the expansion coefficient of said filter elements.

42. (New): A filter device having filter elements made of ceramic material, the filter elements being combined into at least one filter element group, said filter elements in said filter element group being positioned adjacent to one another, so that said filter elements are exposed to parallel flow, the filter element group comprising at least one first filter element, and at least one second filter element, said first filter element being comprised of electrically conductive ceramic material, and having electrical terminals for connection to an electrical energy source, a contact layer separates said first filter from said second filter elements, said contact layers having an electrical conductivity that is less than the electrical conductivity of the ceramic material forming said first filter element.

43. (New): The filter device of claim 42, wherein said contact layers are comprised of the same ceramic material as said filter elements.

44. (New): The filter device of claim 43, wherein said contact layers connect said filter elements.
45. (New): The filter device of claim 44, wherein said contact layers have no surface connection to said filter elements.
46. (New): The filter device of claim 45, wherein said contact layers have a thermal conductivity that is substantially the same as the thermal conductivity of said first or said second filter elements.
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cont 47. (New): The filter device of claim 46, wherein said first filter element is arranged in a center area of said filter element group.
48. (New): The filter device of claim 46, wherein at least two of said first filter elements are separated by at least one of said second filter elements in said filter element group.
49. (New): The filter device of claim 48, wherein said first filter element is surrounded by at least one of said second filter elements.
50. (New): The filter device of claim 49, wherein the thermal conductivity of said second element is greater than or less than a the thermal conductivity of said first element.

51. (New): The filter device of claim 50, wherein each of said filter elements comprise inflow conduits and outflow conduits, each inflow conduit is next to, and alternates with an outflow conduit, said inflow and said outflow conduits are separated by porous walls, each inflow conduit has an opening on an inflow side and is closed on an outflow side, each outflow conduit is closed on an inflow side and has an opening on an outflow side.

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52. (New): The filter device of claim 51, wherein said inflow and outflow conduits have a square cross section.

53. (New): The filter device of claim 52, wherein said filter elements have outer gas tight walls.

54. (New): The filtration device of claim 53, wherein said outer walls have a configuration selected from a group comprising: rectangular, square, oval, round and shell-shaped.

55. (New): The filtration device of claim 54, wherein a housing surrounds said filter element groups, said housing having a gas inlet and a gas outlet.

56. (New): The filtration device of claim 55, wherein multiple filter element groups are present,  
a separate housing surrounds each of said filter element groups.

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cont. 57. (New): The filtration device of claim 56, wherein said contact layers have an expansion coefficient over an operating temperature range that is substantially the same as the expansion coefficient of said filter elements.

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